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Vol 1 Issue 49-

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Power Outages for Thousands in County

A Storm to Remember

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

Wacky weather swept through the County this past weekend which caused damage to buildings, downed power lines and kept fire crews on their toes.

Over a 24-hr period, normal winter temperatures below the freezing mark rose dramatically on Saturday night, bringing with them wind gusts up to 100 km/h. Streets and sidewalks were flooded with the snow meltdown.

As a result of the wicked weather, power was knocked for many in Haliburton County and Ontario. As of Tuesday, Hydro One reported that a total of 3,200 residents in the area were still affected by power outages. In Ontario, over 90,000 people were without power.

Hydro One expects to have power restored to most customers by January 1st.

In taking a tour through Haliburton on Sunday, shingles from stores could be seen flying off or barely hanging on, trees were snapped and scattered around the Village and other debris was spread around.

A total of three incidents were called in to the Dysart et al fire department on Sunday. These occurrences included downed power lines that were on fire on Kashagawigamog Lake Rd., a burnt out motor at the Haliburton Hospital which caused smoke in the building and a major structural fire at Eagle Lake which resulted in \$200,000 in damages.

"I think that all of the fire departments in the area were out to two or three calls on Sunday," said Miles Maughan, Dysart et al Fire Chief, in a phone interview with The Voice.

Storm cont'd... pg. 3...

Photo by Gord Barter

Matthew Duchene Prepares for a New Year Prospects Game First Stop on a Busy 2009 Schedule

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

It's pretty cold out on the front yard rink at Vince and Chris Duchene's home. The ice is rock solid and there's a crunch to the snow as it slides underfoot.

Inside it's warm. It's the Monday before Christmas. It's a nice time of year.

The Duchene family is preparing a trip to Cornwall for a family gathering.

There's a relaxed feeling in the room.

A cold wind is blowing and Matthew Duchene is home from the wars. For the nonce at least, peace reigns. But something hovers in the air. It hovers like a terse truce or unfinished business. A palpable sense that something is not quite right.

Yes, like most skate-borne gladiators, Matthew Duchene would rather be on open ice in full battledress than here at home, relaxing.

Relaxing is not something that Matthew Duchene does well.

Playing, pushing, striving, skating and stretching hockey's precarious envelope to unrelenting limits ... these are the things that Matthew Duch-

ene does well.

Put in its simplest terms, Matthew Duchene thrives in the roiling cauldron of competition.

Just a week ago, on December 15th, on another Monday, Duchene received a call in his Ottawa hotel room telling him that he would not be part of the 22-man roster representing Canada at the 2009 World Junior Championships being held this year in Ottawa.

Understand that Matthew Duchene has not been cut from many hockey teams in his young career. Just two weeks ago, at the national junior training camp held in the nation's capital (December 12-14) Duchene joined 37 other very talented players from across Canada. He was one of only five 17 year-olds picked to that illustrious and prepossessing 38 player training camp roster. In the end only one of those five young guns, a sapling blue-

line sniper and



Matt Duchene at home at Christmas

powerplay mechanic, Ryan Ellis was chosen to the squad.

Duchene will admit that being cut was a suffocating blow. And a bitter disappointment. But in the end, he says that a lot of people have come to him and offered him solace, advice and wisdom. There are sometimes other larger, more useful lessons that may be extracted from life's anecdotal disappointments than from glossy gossamer glides.

He's been assured by coaches, his family and some pretty respected Canadian hockey mandarins that there will be other campaigns, other chances to compete

Duchene cont'd.... pg. 6...



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NO GST/PST

Snowmobiling 2009 ... pg. 13



Inside This Issue

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RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW HOT TUB!

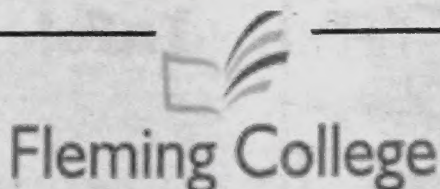
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CONTINUING EDUCATION

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starts Wednesday January 12th

Ontario Building Code - General Legal
starts Monday January 12th

Bookkeeping for Small Business
starts Thursday January 15th

Pottery for Beginners
starts January 26th

Introduction to Computers I
Thursday January 29th
Introduction to Computers II
Thursday February 5th
Introduction to Computers III
Thursday February 12th

Microsoft Excel I
Tuesday February 3rd
Microsoft Excel II
Tuesday February 10th
Microsoft Excel III
Tuesday February 17th

Effective Public Speaking
starts Tuesday Feb 3rd

Conversational French II
starts Tuesday February 3rd

Youth Pottery (10-16yrs)
Starts Tuesday February 3rd

Kids Handbuilding Pottery (5-9yrs)
starts Saturday Feb 7th

Ontario Building Code - Small Buildings
starts Monday February 9th

Youth Pottery (10-16yrs)
starts Tuesday February 3rd

Quickbooks Pro
starts Thursday February 12th

Glassblowing Workshop
Saturday February 21st

Adobe Photoshop
Saturday February 21st

Microsoft Word I
Tuesday February 24th
Microsoft Word II
Tuesday March 3rd
Microsoft Word III
Tuesday March 10th

Clay Tiles - Decoration and Illustration
starts Thursday February 26th

Ontario Building Code - On-site Sewage Systems
starts Monday March 2nd

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Holiday Shopping Seems to be Slightly Down From Last Year

Many Local Business Owners Still Content With Store Sales Prior to Christmas and After

The Christmas holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year for most retail stores across the country. But how did businesses in Haliburton fair this year amidst a global economic meltdown?

While many business owners in Haliburton agree

that their numbers were down for the 2008 holiday season, many were still fairly pleased with their overall sales.

"It wasn't as good as last year, but business wasn't down by much," said Mike O'Mara, Owner of Highland Images. "This holiday season, people were looking around more to see what's out there. I think they were being more careful with their money." O'Mara added that about half of the business in his store over the holidays was from visitors to the Highlands.

"Overall, it was pretty much the same as last year," said Steve Davies, Store Manager of The Bargain Shop. "We had a couple of bad weeks in December but the week leading in to Christmas was excellent." In the end, Davies said that sales were about equal to last year, but with the current state of the economy he doesn't have any complaints. "As retailers, we always like to try and increase sales, but I'm happy with what we accomplished."

Janet Sheehy, owner of Jan Knits Studio, said that she wasn't sure if business was down from last year, however, she says she noticed that less people were around.

"It was quiet over the holidays, but it was quiet before then," said Sheehy. "I think that it's mostly due to the economy. Last year when people were shopping, they seemed to be shopping happily. This year it seemed as if their shopping was begrudged."

Surprisingly, some business owners admit seeing a significant improvement over last year.

"We were probably up by about 10 per cent overall and on Boxing Day we were up about 20 per cent from last year," said Steve Todd, Owner of Todd's Independent Grocer.

"People started to get really serious with their shopping a week and a half before Christmas," said Laurie Bonfield, Owner of Country Pickins. Bonfield added that Boxing Day was the busiest day her clothing store saw over the holidays.

Business at The Sears Catalogue store in Haliburton also went over well during the holidays.

"It was very, very good," said Owner Martin Russell. "Business builds up in the time leading up to Christmas and Boxing Day

continues to be one of our busiest days of the year."

Some of the hot items sold through Sears Boxing Day offers included LCD televisions, other electronics and appliances. Russell says that Sears always tries to offer products at competitive prices. With the current economic outlook, he says that this is even more evident.

"With the market conditions, we see that lots of places are slashing prices well before Christmas. We try to do that too because it helps to make things easier for those who might have not budgeted certain items into their shopping list," he said.

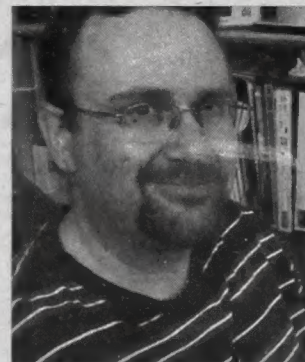
Some business owners still had to wait until the end of this week to get a better idea of how they did over the holiday season.

And though Boxing Day has passed, many stores in the County are still offering discounts on certain items in their stores.

So the next time you're in town, go bargain hunting and discover the great items that you can buy locally. Hurry before time runs out!

Have Your Say... VOX POP

Here is some other feedback we received from business owners in Minden when asking them, "How were sales at your store this holiday season? At what times was the store the busiest and what were people looking for?"



Ira Andrews, Owner, A Little Bit of Everything - It went just fine, we were very busy. I wouldn't say that we're busier during the holiday because we're busy year-round. We just appreciate every customer who comes through our door."



John Thomas, Owner, Stedman's V&S Minden - "Things started off quieter than usual but in the few days leading up to Christmas. It was that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday that saved us for the month. We didn't find that there was that must-have toy or hit item. Business was down a bit this year, but you have to keep in mind that everyone is being more careful because of the economy. We were pleased to see that people from that area were shopping locally."



Jodi Paterson, Owner, Minden Home Hardware - "A couple of days before Christmas were very busy. I found that December 23rd was our busiest day. I wouldn't say that there were certain hot items that people were looking for, however, they did look for specific items that they knew were on sale. I noticed that on Dec. 23 and 24th, the store was full of men doing last minute shopping for the women in their lives!"



Sharon Joyce, Owner, Jewels - "Business picked up at the end of December. The last week before Christmas was wild. I think that the whole year overall was slower than last year."

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Dramatic Change in Weather Creates Work for Fire and Hydro Crews



Photos by Gord Barter and Mark Arike

... from pg. 1

What made things difficult for Dysart firefighters was the influx of calls all at once. "We had three calls all at once in the morning," said Maughan. On the other hand, the weather didn't create a busy weekend for the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment. "Most of the calls we received were for reports of wires down," said OPP Const. Mark McMaster, who estimated that about dozen calls came in for downed phone and power lines. "I just think that a lot of people didn't go out," added McMaster. As of press time, Hydro One reported that some homes in the Minden area could be without power until New Year's Eve. If you see downed power lines, Maughan urges that you call your local fire department and stay far away from the live wires. "Some people may think that it's safe to go near the area and check it out, but it definitely isn't," he said.



THURSDAY

Increasing afternoon clouds and chilly
▲ 0° ▼ -2°

FRIDAY

Cloudy with a chance of light snow
▲ -7° ▼ -13°

SATURDAY

A.M. snow showers, then partly cloudy
▲ -4° ▼ -7°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with morning snow showers
▲ -4° ▼ -9°

MONDAY

Mostly sunny and seasonable
▲ -4° ▼ -9°

TUESDAY

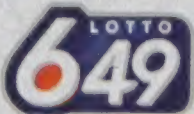
Chance of light snow
▲ -4° ▼ -11°

WEDNESDAY

Breezy with snow showers
▲ -2° ▼ -9°

AROUND THE REGION: A chilly day will be experienced on Thursday as morning sunshine will give way to afternoon clouds. Highs will be in the single digits below zero. A weak storm system will produce light snow on Friday and come to an end on Saturday morning. Another system will produce snow showers on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers



Dec 27, 2008

06 10 20 23 45 47

Bonus Number 11

Encore 9000156



Dec 26, 2008

04 25 30 31 33 34 37

Bonus Number 11

Encore 6521193

TROPICAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	City	Today	Friday	Saturday
Acapulco	30/21/pc	31/22/pc	30/21/su	Montego Bay	28/23/ts	28/23/sh	29/22/su
Antigua	28/23/pc	28/24/su	29/24/su	Nassau	26/21/ts	27/22/ra	26/23/su
Barbados	29/23/pc	30/26/su	29/26/su	Port au Prince	29/23/pc	28/20/su	29/21/dz
Bermuda	18/12/pc	21/14/dz	26/16/ts	Puerto Vallarta	26/16/pc	26/17/cl	26/15/su
Cancun	29/19/pc	28/22/su	28/22/su	St Thomas	28/22/su	28/24/cl	29/26/su
Curacao	30/24/pc	29/23/pc	29/23/ts	St Maarten	28/22/su	28/25/su	29/26/su
Freeport	25/19/ts	27/20/ts	27/22/su	San Jose, CR	28/17/pc	28/18/pc	28/17/pc
Georgetown	30/24/ts	30/23/ra	30/23/ts	San Juan	28/22/su	28/24/cl	29/26/su
Havana	27/19/pc	28/16/su	26/18/su	San Salvador	31/20/pc	31/20/su	31/21/su
Key West	25/19/ts	25/20/pc	24/19/pc	Santo Domingo	28/22/pc	29/22/su	31/22/cl
Kingston	29/24/ts	29/24/sh	30/23/su	Trinidad	31/26/pc	32/26/su	32/27/su

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	City	Today	Friday	Saturday
Bancroft	-7/13/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Barrie	-6/13/pc	-3/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Barrie	-6/13/pc	-3/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Dorset	-7/14/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Dorset	-7/14/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Haliburton	-7/13/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Haliburton	-7/13/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Huntsville	-7/14/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Huntsville	-7/14/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Kingston	-6/13/pc	-2/6/sn	-3/8/sf
Kingston	-6/13/pc	-2/6/sn	-3/8/sf	Lindsay	-6/13/pc	-3/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Lindsay	-6/13/pc	-3/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Minden	-7/13/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf
Minden	-7/13/pc	-4/7/sn	-4/9/sf	Oshawa	-6/12/pc	-2/6/sn	-2/7/sf
Oshawa	-6/12/pc	-2/6/sn	-2/7/sf	Ottawa	-11/17/pc	-7/13/sn	-6/11/sf
Ottawa	-11/17/pc	-7/13/sn	-6/11/sf	Toronto	-5/12/pc	-1/6/sn	-2/7/sf
Toronto	-5/12/pc	-1/6/sn	-2/7/sf				

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Friday	Saturday	City	Today	Friday	Saturday
Calgary	-16/17/cl	-10/19/sf	-14/19/pc	Edmonton	-20/28/pc	-7/18/sn	-22/32/sf
Edmonton	-20/28/pc	-7/18/sn	-22/32/sf	Fredericton	-14/24/sf	-7/17/sf	-4/13/sn
Fredericton	-14/24/sf	-7/17/sf	-4/13/sn	Halifax	-6/19/sf	-3/11/sf	5/4/sn
Halifax	-6/19/sf	-3/11/sf	5/4/sn	Montreal	-14/18/pc	-7/13/sn	-6/12/sf
Montreal	-14/18/pc	-7/13/sn	-6/12/sf	Regina	-14/24/cl	-4/33/sn	-15/17/sf
Regina	-14/24/cl	-4/33/sn	-15/17/sf	St. John's	0/10/sn	1/1/cl	4/0/mx
St. John's	0/10/sn	1/1/cl	4/0/mx	Saskatoon	-20/25/cl	-6/32/sn	-17/19/sf
Saskatoon	-20/25/cl	-6/32/sn	-17/19/sf	Vancouver	4/1/mx	5/3/sn	5/1/mx
Vancouver	4/1/mx	5/3/sn	5/1/mx	Whitehorse	-30/34/cl	-31/32/cl	-31/36/cl
Whitehorse	-30/34/cl	-31/32/cl	-31/36/cl	Winnipeg	-17/23/sf	-13/26/cl	-8/17/sf
Winnipeg	-17/23/sf	-13/26/cl	-8/17/sf				

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 12/29	NA	NA	NA
Sunday 12/28	12°C	0°C	2.0 mm
Saturday 12/27	-3°C	-10°C	0.0 mm
Friday 12/26	-3°C	-10°C	0.0 mm
Thursday 12/25	2°C	-6°C	0.3 mm
Wednesday 12/24	2°C	-6°C	0.3 mm
Tuesday 12/23	-13°C	-20°C	0.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com

Forecasts, graphs and data
provided by Weather Central,
Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2009

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu. 12/29	7:53 a.m./4:42 p.m.	10:09 a.m./9:00 p.m.
Fri. 12/30	7:53 a.m./4:43 p.m.	10:29 a.m./10:07 p.m.
Sat. 12/31	7:53 a.m./4:44 p.m.	10:47 a.m./11:14 p.m.
Sun. 1/1	7:53 a.m./4:45 p.m.	11:06 a.m./none
Mon. 1/2	7:52 a.m./4:46 p.m.	11:26 a.m./12:24 a.m.
Tues. 1/3	7:52 a.m./4:47 p.m.	11:51 a.m./1:37 a.m.
Wed. 1/4	7:52 a.m./4:48 p.m.	12:21 p.m./2:53 a.m.

First Jan. 4 Full Jan. 10 Last Jan. 17 New Jan. 26

Who's Up in That Tree



Tim Payment of Lake Miskwabi appreciated our Christmas issue story on Haliburton's Annual Bird Count, where we noted how few owls were around this year, and sent in this picture taken on Christmas Day.

The Choice Is Yours...



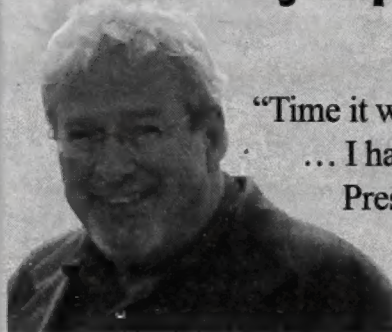
This Holiday Season...

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County Voice

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

by Stephen Patrick



"Time it was, and what a Time it was,
... I have a Photograph
Preserve your Memories, they're all
that's left you."

New Year's is traditionally a time of celebration – a time for renewal, fresh starts, those inevitable resolutions, the New Year dressed, with heavy symbolism, as a cherubic infant, cleansed of all the past years' sins. I've never quite understood why the focus seems to be so positive – after all, New Years also means we're all one year closer to the cruel, cold churchyard – and I'm not talking about singing carols. This basic seasonal schizophrenia may be one reason among many why New Year's parties are so often over-the-top booze-fests: everyone wants to be happy happy, but can't quite forget the image of the grim reaper looking over their shoulder. Make mine a triple – and maybe I'll forget.

New Year's also seems often to be a time of terrible tragedy – like the devastating tsunami of two years ago that killed over 200,000 people in Indonesia and beyond. Perhaps it's because everyone so fervently wants a break at the annual Holiday Season from the bitter realities of the world that these awful events seem magnified – like a family death on Christmas day, or the ongoing deadly news from Afghanistan.

This year we're being treated not only to the almost daily death reports from Kandahar, but also the unprecedented Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip and the Hamas leadership and infrastructure, in retaliation for the constant bombing of Israeli civilian homes. Just one more reminder that this conflict, which has been going on practically my entire life, will continue its poisonous, tortuous route of mutual self destruction for probably a few more generations at least.

And yet, 2008 has been a year of quite breathtaking change, both in Canada and abroad. Federally, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives seemed poised to take a clear majority, as then Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's Green Shift platform puzzled almost everyone, excepting those it scared half to death. And then, Harper decided to trash the arts, in, of all places, Quebec, sending his francophone numbers plummeting. Finally, as the world's strongest bastions of capitalism started to shake, the PM advised Canadians not to worry, and take advantage of bargains to be had in the stock market. Dion's bemused meander through the upper levels of Canadian politics suddenly seemed, if not a plausible journey, then at least a trip worth a hard look. And so the majority slipped away, leading to the altogether bizarre events of early December, the coalition, the resignation of Stephane Dion, and the acclimation of Michael Ignatieff as the Liberals' fourth leader in five years. I love listening to what we used to call, in Larry Zolf's phrase, "the politics of the Punditi on the Rideau", but believe me, there ain't a pundito around who could ever have called that chain of events. Almost as bizarre as Mike Duffy in the Senate, but that's a story for another day. Sorry, Larry, I wish it could have been you, the stars weren't aligned just right – but certainly precedent has been set.

For the last two months we've also lived with what will likely appear as the story of the year, i.e. the world-wide financial meltdown. In time that story may even surpass the astonishing Presidential victory of Barack Hussein Obama. (Just saying those three words in the same sentence as "President" and the "United States of America" is as close to hallucinogenic as anyone will ever get this side of 1967.) But the true extent of the predicted financial devastation is still unknown, although obviously the swells are pushing hard at our shores.

In the next two issues of the Voice, as we approach our first anniversary (who'd a thunk it?) we'll look back at the year just ended, and share once again with our readers the weekly and monthly trials, tribulation, and celebrations in this amazing corner of the world known as Haliburton County. So Happy New Year! And raise a glass to the Reaper – after all he'll be back next year as well. ■

Happy Holidays



Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"The HCSA has already started to prepare to improve the trail system from Minden to Ox Narrows and beyond."

Recently, Greg Turner wrote his concerns with respect to the lack of "decent trails" in Haliburton County.

In all the years the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) has always strived to have the best snowmobile trail system possible.

The HCSA has worked with landowners for years, and Greg Turner has to realize that it's the gracious gestures of those landowners that make this trail system possible. Since the system is 75 percent on private property, our landowners have always been held in high esteem.

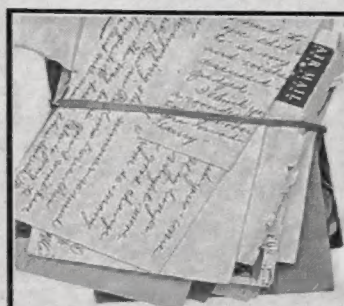
The HCSA has already started to prepare to improve the trail system from Minden to Ox Narrows and beyond. This fall, construction work was completed on that route. Hopefully by the next season, this area will have a MAIN Tops trail from Dorset and through Pine Springs, Halls Lake, and the Carnarvon area. This expansion allows the 'Round Algonquin Park' or the "RAP" tour riders to have access to this area. This was a vision of the HCSA for increased traffic with the businesses in mind.

In closing, once the trails are open in that area, the HCSA # 4 trail will continue to go by Greg Turner's establishment and hopefully more riders will support him.

Thank you,

Andy Chvedukas
President
Haliburton County Snowmobile Association.

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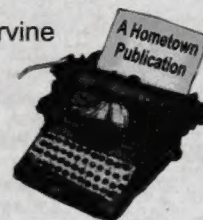


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Advertising Manager: Brett Irvine
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Sales Representative: Carrie Feir
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Published by: Brett & Joanne Irvine
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ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: FIRSTS

With what first is each person most closely identified? (e.g., Martha Washington. Answer: First U.S. first lady.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Neil Armstrong

Answer _____

2. Charles Lindbergh

Answer _____

3. Yuri Gagarin

Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Roald Amundsen

Answer _____

5. Ferdinand Magellan

Answer _____

6. Virginia Dare

Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. John Jay

Answer _____

8. Marie Curie

Answer _____

9. Junko Tabei

Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. First to walk on the moon. 2. First solo nonstop trans-Atlantic flight. 3. First in space and/or first to orbit Earth. 4. First to reach the South Pole and/or first to traverse the Northwest Passage. 5. Led first successful circumnavigation of Earth. 6. First child born in the Americas to English parents. 7. First U.S. Supreme Court chief justice. 8. First female Nobel Prize winner. 9. First woman to climb Mount Everest.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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Winter can be pretty at times. Photo by Tim Tofflemire

Approaching a One-Year Milestone

Mark Arike Reflects On Life as a Reporter in an Active Community

Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

It's hard to believe that The County Voice is only three issues away from its one-year anniversary. I guess it goes to show that time really does fly when you're having fun!

I can remember last December like it was yesterday. At the time, I was fresh out of college; a graduate from Durham College's journalism — print and broadcast program.

I was back in my old stomping grounds of Haliburton, working at the Haliburton IGA (now Foodland) just as I had been in my high school years at HHSS. The job allowed me to help sustain myself while I diligently continued to hunt down an opportunity that would allow me to embark on a career related to my field of study.

While on one lunch break from work, I took a trip over to the Stedman's mall. For what reason, I can't remember. Maybe it was to do some "window shopping" or pick-up a Proline ticket, but it's what I saw going on in the lower level of the mall that really caught me off guard.

I peered into the former unit of the Haliburton Vision Care Centre and noticed that people were painting the walls and revamping the overall appearance of the office. My curiosity level was at an all time high and I just had find out who was moving in. After numerous lunchtime visits, a sign was eventually put up that answered my question. It read: "The County Voice, Haliburton County's Newest Weekly Newspaper Coming Soon".

It seemed that destiny was knocking at my door. An opportunity for work in my field arose in my hometown only a few months after graduation from my three-year program. It almost seemed too good to be true.

After doing some research, I learned that Brett and Joanne Irvine, owners of The Highlands Communicator, were the brains behind the new business venture. Within an instant, I was on the phone dialing their digits in hopes of scheduling an in-person interview at the earliest possible date.

The Irvine's were enthusiastic about the prospect of meeting with me and they were especially happy to hear that I was a local boy. In preparation for the interview, I prepared a cover letter illustrating my enthusiasm for joining a community newspaper, double checked sentence structure and spelling in my resume and organized my portfolio that included a collection of works from my three years of studies. I also made sure to have a dry-cleaned, designer suit ready to go.

On the day of my interview, I was just a little bit on edge to say the least. I had to sell myself, just like in any other interview, but more than anything, I wanted to hear a key phrase at the end of it all which goes; "You're hired."

As it turned out, I had nothing to worry about after all. Within days of that initial encounter with the Irvine's, my journalistic adventures in the County began. I met with Stephen Patrick, my managing editor, who instructed me to come up with a few story ideas. He also gave me a few assignments to see what I was capable of. The first week was pretty much like a probationary period.

Until I could get myself some wheels, I acted as a freelance reporter for The Voice. Once the only obstacle delaying me from coming on-board as a full-timer was eliminated, it was full speed ahead, all systems go.

In looking back at the past 12 months, I've been able to see Haliburton County in a way that I never have before. Sure, I've lived in the area since 1996, but in those days I didn't stray far outside of the school confines to experience all of what this community has to offer at all times of the year.

The beauty of being a reporter in a tight-knit community such as Haliburton County is that you get a taste of a little bit of everything. In covering the abundance of events that help keep things lively, you see firsthand the importance of the arts community in all parts of the county.

You see how the community bands together in an instant to pull off large, successful fundraisers that benefit and improve health services in the area, and other initiatives that help im-

prove the lives of others in some form or another.

You also, unfortunately, get to see how tragedy and unforeseen occurrences can strike at any given moment. This past year, several homes of local residents were turned to rubble and ashes because of fire. A couple of car collisions sent injured occupants to hospital with serious injuries and a vicious assault on a local business owner sent shockwaves through the community.

Though it's true that this community heavily relies on tourists in the summer months to keep the economy going, it doesn't mean that nothing goes on during the winter season.

For the first time ever, Haliburton will host the first "Frost Festival" set to take place in the Village on the Family Day weekend of Feb. 13-15th. Festivities will include a live ice carving demonstration by a local carver, bonfire pits, outdoor kid's games and more. The event will also coincide with the 8th annual Haliburton Highlands Dog Sled Derby at the Delta Pinestone Resort.

Last winter's high intensity oval ice, snowmobile racing will once again return to Head Lake from March 7-8th. The event is expected to draw thousands to Haliburton over the course of the two-day race festivities.

By simply even attending a small fraction of the many events that take place in the Highlands, you'll be amazed and inspired by how lively the area is and by how many people are doing great things to make this place even more attractive than it already is.

In the next weeks issue of The Voice I will reminisce about some of my most memorable stories and moments from 2008. ■



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Matt Duchene Likely Top 5 NHL Draft Pick This Spring

... from pg. 1

on this lively junior dais.

"It's an unbelievable opportunity that I missed out on, but at the same time I can still make the best of it and not lose any ground, and that's what I'm going to do," says Duchene mustering a smile.

His Brampton Battalion coach Stan Butler, who coached the Canadian Junior squad in 2001 and 2002 had a chat enunciating those very sentiments with his star center last week. "I was talking to him (Butler) last night," says Duchene. "He just said use it as motivation for the second half of the season and he told me that it's not the end of the world to be cut from this team. And like he said, I'm still only 17 and there will be other chances." Duchene is looking forward to the second half of the Battalion season.

The spinning wheel and the brass ring will roll around again next year.

The Brampton Battalion currently own first place in the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Central Division. The Battalion are just five points back of the Eastern Conference leading Belleville Bulls, but also have five games in hand.

There will be challenges for Duchene and his teammates beginning this week. The team has to play five games in just eight days and will be a little shy of some pretty powerful pop from now until the Junior Championships end on Monday January 5. Duchene's line-mate Evgeny Grachev, the Battalion's third leading scorer is currently playing for the Russian squad at the World Juniors. And of course the Troop's leading point-getter Cody Hodgson, a Haliburton cottager and Duchene's good friend and summer training partner is playing for Canada and racking up some huge totals in pre-season and tourney play at the prestigious junior tourney. Another player, Sam Carrick was one of 22 players chosen last week to be on the Ontario roster that will compete at the 2009 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in British Columbia next month. (Duchene won gold at the same tourney last year as a member and captain of the Ontario Under-17s.)

A game against Erie on Sunday Dec 28 marked the first of five in an eight-day stretch for the Troops, who also visited the Kitchener Rangers on Tuesday night before hosting the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors in the New Year's Eve game at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. The Battalion visits Erie on Friday night and will host the Windsor Spitfires on Jan. 4.

So the Troop will be leaning heavily upon Duchene who is currently second in Battalion scoring. He says that he's taken Butler's advice and will be using this experience with the Canadian junior team as motivation.

Duchene says that the loss of three pretty significant cogs in the wheel will put pressure on the rest of the team to stand and deliver.

"We still have a lot of talented guys on this team and we have a lot of guys that can carry the load, so we'll go out and play and just see how things go," smiles Duchene.

At the same time he has some pretty upbeat expectations heading into the second half of the season. The Battalion started slowly this year, but have rebounded and are now fourth overall in the OHL standings. Asked about playoff possibilities Duchene was pretty optimistic about their chances this season.

"It's tough to say who we're going to play in the playoffs right now," says Duchene. "I think that we've proven on our side of the league that we can beat everybody. We beat Belleville 7-1 and they had all their guys and we had all our guys and we lost by a goal to both Windsor and London, so I think that it's Windsor, London, ourselves and Belleville right now; in no particular order."

He says that a recent record-setting winning-streak also helped to cement a very positive attitude.

"That 16-game winning streak is not only good for the stats column, it's good for our confidence," smiles Duchene. "We learned about never giving up and for a time we just never thought that we could lose a game and every game that we were down we never thought that we could lose. I remember



Matt with younger sister Jessica at home at Christmas

when we broke the record for our team, we were down 4-1 with only 15 minutes left in the third period and we ended up winning 5-4, so it just shows you anything can happen."

He adds that there are some pretty significant hurdles standing in between the Battalion and a berth at the Memorial Cup.

"Obviously Windsor has an unbelievable record and so does London, but I think we can compete with those teams; we've got a lot of skill and a lot of young talent," says Duchene. "The thing with our team is that we work hard and we never believe we can lose."

Duchene says that Butler is a great guy to have at the helm. "You can tell when he's (Butler) happy ... when we were on that streak he seemed to be pretty happy," says Duchene. He adds that the coach never lets extraneous things get in front of the final goal. "He just made sure we didn't get complacent."

Complacency and Matthew Duchene have never been introduced so it's not surprising that there are other things currently dodging this young skater's chip-scattered and icy wake.

Duchene is one of 40 players selected to play in the Canadian Hockey League's (CHL) Top Prospects Game, slated for Oshawa's General Motors Place on Jan. 14. NHL scouting director E.J. McGuire, who is in charge of putting the event together, said that a skills competition will be held at the same rink the day before.

Duchene, who will be on the 2009 NHL Entry Draft roster this coming June is looking forward to the game, while admitting that it's not a make-or-break event. "All of the players are going in the draft this year," says Duchene. "The reason for it, I think, is you can compare almost every guy in one setting and it's just an opportunity to see them together. Just to see players in a different setting among players they haven't played with before. It can give teams an idea how mentally tough a player can be playing with other players."

At present, Duchene's own status is notched quite high for the 2009 entry draft scheduled for Montreal in June. The Draft will be held at the Bell Center over two days, Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27. Duchene and a coterie of his family and friends will be there.

He says that he stays current with the rankings, but tries to keep that portion of his life separate from the job at hand with his Battalion teammates.

"I always hear about the rankings and stuff and the top 10, and last time I checked I was at number three," says Duchene.

Right now Oshawa General center John Tavares is first with Swede Victor Hedman currently ranked second. Flip flopping between the third and fourth spots are Duchene and Jared Cowan, a large and burly defenseman who plays with Spokane of the WHL.

He has no guesses about which team may be looming on the horizon, but he lets a smile cross his face when assessing the chances that the Ottawa Senators may - if they keep playing as poorly as they have to date - have a shot at the third or fourth draft pick overall.

"I think I'd rather stay in Canada," says Duchene, who along with his dad are huge Habs fans. "Yes, too bad Montreal is doing so well this year," smiles Duchene, who will probably not be around when Montreal picks. However, a shot at playing just down the road in the nation's capital would be great. "I like the idea of playing in Canada; you're closer to home; Canadian fans are unbelievable; hockey's so big in Canada it would be awesome to play here, but there are also a lot of nice places in the United States to play

hockey."

He remains savvy about the selection process. He's done the requisite homework and knows that the annual entry draft marks a pivotal point in time for a player. The player combine, a camp where NHL execs and coaching staffs get a chance to evaluate a player's fitness level comes first, in late May or early June.

"I'll be going there (the combine) first and then waiting a month, and by then I'll have a pretty good idea about where I'm going to go," says Duchene. At about that time the team standings will already be decided and the bottom five teams will be looking at options. "The final rankings are in (in June) and you can kind of get a sense of what teams are interested and where you're going, just by how the interviews go with the teams," says Duchene. "Teams always know who they want and they know who the top five are going to be, and from there they can kind of pencil in who they want."

He says that he will have to continue doing the things which have sustained him throughout a groundbreaking year in 2008.

Duchene cont'd... pg. 7...



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Happy New Year Haliburton County!

The owners and staff of the County Voice and the Highlands Communicator would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers, advertisers, and friends a safe and Happy New Year. During the past 11 months we've done our best to chronicle the news, events and people that make Haliburton County such a unique and special place to live, work, and play. Our readers have given us great encouragement, passionate disagreement, but rarely indifference.

In the next few issues we'll bring you a detailed look back at the events that shaped our political, economic and social lives in 2008, to give us all some perspective on the year. We hope that 2009 proves to be as interesting, challenging and successful for all our readers, and they continue to let us know how we're doing, and not doing, as we cover Haliburton each week. Happy New Year Haliburton! ■

THANK YOU

The County Voice wishes to thank all of our advertisers for their support over the past year. Happy New Years!

Duchene Cont'd...

.... from pg. 6

Remember just for a moment where this young player has been. In January of 2008 he won gold with the Ontario Under 17s; later on, in March, he was chosen to the under-18 squad that won world gold in Kazan, Russia; and then in August he captained the team that won another Under-18 gold medal at the Ivan Hlinka Tourney in the Czech Republic. Three gold medals in 2008.

So Matthew Duchene is not overly burdened about this setback with the Canadian junior team. "I just have to keep going and have a good second half and just keep on doing what I was doing in the first half," says Duchene. Part of that process begins with some rehab work on a shoulder injury that sidelined him for six games just prior to his call up to the junior camp. He doesn't blame the shoulder injury per se, but says that it contributed to a lack of pop and timing all through the junior camp.

"It didn't bother me physically, but the six-game layoff hurt my timing in scrimmages," says Duchene. "My injury is getting better every day, it's not quite a hundred percent yet but I can play hockey at a hundred percent. In terms of working out I still have to keep rehabbing a little bit but once I get that going and fully healthy I can keep getting stronger and keep playing the way before I was before I left."

He wants to get back into that scoring groove that at one point had him sitting sixth overall in OHL scoring.

And at Christmas, home in Haliburton? Well, he got a chance to sit down for a bright moment.

A time to reflect and as it turns out a time to glance back at his own roots.

Several times Matthew Duchene was called to preach the good word over his brief break at home in Haliburton.

And each time he was asked to head out to a minor hockey practice, he went gladly.

"I was in Minden the other night and back in Haliburton for some practices," smiles Duchene. "They asked if I could come and I went out with my cousin's team; and another time, Dean Chalk asked me to come out. It was nice. I always like giving back and getting some ice time as well."

The smile says it all. Duchene likes being around kids who like hockey.

"I know all those kids and I've been around them before so it's familiar, it's fun, and it's cool to see the young talent we have in Haliburton. It's funny the amount those kids know, and it's nice to be from a town that's so engulfed in hockey."

Matthew Duchene knows just how engulfed one can get in the business of hockey.

So it was nice to get back home for the holidays.

And pretty nice to get out and share with the younger players.

A pleasant bump with reality for Matthew Duchene who is about to enter some rarefied air, earning a handsome living playing a game that he loved as a kid and still loves today. ■

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It All Comes Down to Income

Poverty in Haliburton County: An Area of Concern for Many

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

It was the Polish-born author Leo Calvin Rosten who said; "Money can't buy happiness, but neither can poverty."

For years, poverty statistics in rural Haliburton County have painted a not-so pleasant picture for an area with such beautiful surroundings. And with the recent financial crisis hanging above the county, country and entire globe, the struggles for some likely won't be getting easier any time soon.

Some of the key findings in the Health Unit's Child Poverty Report point out the harsh realities of poverty. For families of four with low incomes in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, an average of about 60 to 70 per cent of their incomes are eaten up by bills such as hydro, rent and other utility costs. And although the median family income in these areas has gone up to be at \$61,525, that's still \$7,600 below the Province of Ontario average of \$69,156.

Those below the poverty line often find themselves in a lose-lose situation when trying to balance the funds they have. Most will choose to pay their rent and utility first before spending that money on food, clothes or school supplies. Otherwise, they could face eviction and finding a new place to live usually isn't a viable option. Unfortunately, opting to go hungry for a few days to pay the bills is the decision that gets made.

Rosie Kadwell, Public Health Dietician with the Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), knows all too well how poverty challenges families in the county.

"These families are struggling all of the time," said Kadwell in an interview with The Voice when asked if the current economic situation is making things worse for those facing poverty.

Due to the fact that Haliburton County heavily relies on tourism to support the local economy, many with seasonal jobs find themselves out of work once these visitors migrate back to the city. Without work, many have no other choice but to apply for social assistance from Ontario Works. This is only a temporary fix for struggling families and funds provided to eligible candidate's only helps to cover basic needs such as food and rent.

This year, struggling families are also receiving Child/Family benefits, including the full National Child Benefit Supplement and the new Child Benefit that has helped to increase income. Remaining funds, however, get used up for other basic needs such as back-to-school items and winter clothing. Previously, families received about \$600 in total allowances for these items. For families, being able to save up for these necessities is not only difficult, but next to impossible when they are \$9,000-\$11,000 below the poverty line.

Some people still assume that families are in poverty simply because they are incompetent money managers. Kadwell says that this is a big misconception.

"By looking at the Health Unit's recent child poverty report, you'll see that the various scenarios show that families are left in the hole or with very little at the end of each month after paying their expenses," she explained.

In June of 2008, the HKPR priced the cost of eating food for one week at six grocery stores in the area. A provincially standardized tool known

as the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) is used to determine the average cost of 66 food items commonly purchased and recommended by Canada's Food Guide. The NFB does not include cleaning products, toiletries or personal care items.

The study illustrates four different possible scenarios that a family of four, a single parent and a single person on low incomes could be in.

One scenario shows that a family of four living in a three bedroom residence on a total monthly income of \$1,782 from Ontario Works is \$190 short of what they need to afford all of their expenses. This family would be using a whopping 76 per cent of their total income for rent and utilities and 34 per cent would go towards the purchase of food. Information from Statistics Canada in 2006 shows that the average Canadian only spends 10 per cent of their income on buying healthy food items.

In another scenario, a single parent with two children living in a two bedroom residence on Ontario Works is left with \$273.82 of their monthly income of \$1,665, which still isn't much considering the fact that the funds would be allocated for other expenses like transportation, child care, household and personal care items, clothing and school supplies.

Health Canada has identified income as the single most important factor that affects an individual's health. For low income families, paying bills to avoid losing what they have comes first and as a result, healthy eating often takes a back seat to their financial obligations.

"If your phone bill comes in, your rent comes in and your car payment, you have to pay those first or otherwise someone is going to come after you," notes Kadwell. "You can go hungry and no one is going to say, 'You didn't buy enough food at the grocery store.'"

With poverty making healthy eating difficult, the list of services and programs geared towards helping families and raising awareness of their plight in the community seems to continue to grow.

A recent initiative launched this past October by SIRCH Community Services & Consulting, a non-profit charitable organization in the county, is addressing the importance of consuming nutritionally balanced meals through the "Chef-of-the-Month" Challenge. The challenge invites local area chefs to come up with a healthy meal plan for a family of four on only \$6.50 per day. Each month a chef puts on a live cooking demonstration at Bob and Wendy's Foodland in Haliburton for the public.

So far, every featured chef has deemed it impossible to spend so little and still come up with a meal that meets Canada's Food Guide requirements.

Though the demonstrations are entertaining and people are able to try out various recipes for free, the main intention behind the program is to raise the public's awareness of the severity of the challenges that families in the county face on a regular basis.

Rosie Kadwell - "These families are struggling all of the time."

"There are families in the community that only have an average of \$6.50 to spend on food everyday of each month," says Nancy Brownsberger, Social Marketer for SIRCH and organizer of Chef-of-the-Month. "With the challenge we are proving that these families cannot afford to healthfully within their budget."

Local food banks are large providers of food to families who are in immediate need of food. Their use is on the rise in not only Haliburton County but the country.

A recent statistic from a report released by the Ontario Association of Food Banks shows that food banks across Ontario have seen a 13 per cent rise in clients from September 2007 to September 2008.

"Food banks use to be used as an emergency measure, unfortunately in this day and age people are depending on them," says Kadwell.

Healthy eating in Haliburton County's schools is also being addressed with breakfast, healthy snack and lunch programs. Without these programs in place, many children could go hungry during the school day and as a result, may find it difficult to learn properly. Malnourished children also are at risk of physical underdevelopment.

Though there are many of these programs in the area that assist families in need, most of them serve as a temporary fix, says Kadwell.

"The programs can be beneficial because they might have an educational component to them, but they mainly provide the immediate fix to an issue. Then there are other long-term solutions that need to be looked at." Examples of long-term solutions from the HKPR include changes to raise minimum wage to keep pace with inflation, the establishment of an independent committee for determining Ontario Works and other support program rates and living wages and more affordable housing rates for fixed income clients. All these ideas would have to be taken into consideration by local politicians in order to be implemented.

Whether or not the issue of poverty will ever be reduced or eliminated in Haliburton County remains to be seen. Many selfless community partners donate their time to raise awareness of the issues and also give to those in need however they can.

But now, more than ever, people in the community need to be made aware of the burdens poverty places on those affected. By being resourceful and reaching out to families, hopefully change is possible.

For more information on all of programs available in the community that are in place to help those in need, visit the HKPR office in Haliburton or call 705 459-3913. ■



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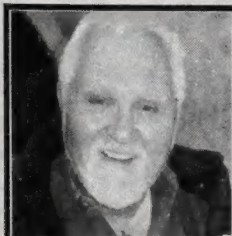
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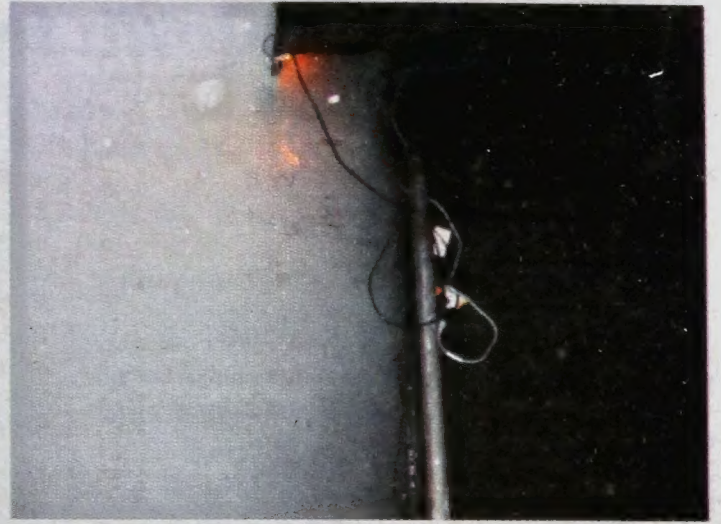
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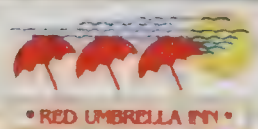
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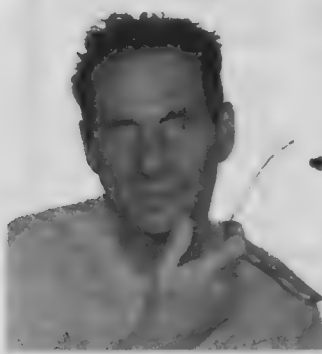
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Wednesday, December 31, 2008

A Windy Day in Cottage Country Watching Canada's Juniors Hodgson Leads All Scorers After Two Games ... I Think?

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor



So what prompts Canadians to tune into an absolute blowout on a Sunday – the Canadian Juniors beat Kazakhstan 15-0 in case you missed it - while

bits and pieces fall off their roofs, trees litter their driveways and brownouts force endless reboots of their satellite system?

Junior hockey my friends. The World Championships. Well, that's my excuse. What's yours?

Yes, I kept watching as a foundation-rattling 130 kilometer-per-hour gust engendered a fingernail on chalkboard creaking crescendo that told me my roof capping was attempting to dislodge from the peak of the humble abode here on Halbiem Crescent.

I did what any normal Canadian hockey fan might. I looked out the front window to gauge wind direction and then sauntered calmly to the appropriate side window to see if any parts of my roof had dislodged to the neighboring yards. I pulled out binoculars, figuring that shingles would be well on their way to Head Lake by now, trailed inevitably and inexorably by the slightly heavier and less aerodynamic capping.

All clear. For now at least. No, I did not go out to the backyard to assess damage. That would have ruined the karma and disrupted the overall chi. My serenity must remain intact. I had a game to watch.

And besides, the cap was still up there. I could hear it flapping, fluttering and floundering with what I can only assume was an insouciant nonchalance in the galloping gale.

Oh whoopee! Lookie' here! Canada scores again. It is now 7-0 and I am excited, but the classy Canadian players stopped showing any emotion shortly after scoring the fourth goal. It's borderline embarrassing. This shellacking of Kazakhstan a lamentably undermanned and plodding opponent.

In fact, look closely enough, through the flickering circuitry of the sepia-tinged browned-out picture, and I can almost see cringes on the faces of the young Canadian players. These are kids accustomed to playing close-quartered, competitive hockey, and it's becoming obvious that they are not fond of this knife's twist.

The announcers on TSN feel the same. Bob McKenzie, Pierre McGuire and that other talking head from THE network will put the boots to this dead chestnut mare ad nauseum, ad infinitum

and ad libbily throughout the course of the telecast.

McKenzie says cut the field from 10 teams to 8. McGuire says the tiebreak mechanism, which dictates that goals for and against decide who stays and who goes in the event of an equal distribution of wins and losses, must be reassessed. The peanut boy in the catbird seat calling the game says, "Wheee, lookie' here, Canada scored again! Whattaya' think about that Pierre and Bobby?"

They said this many, many, many, many, many times. Notice how many times I wrote many? Notice how annoying it is? Well that's how annoying Bob and Pierre were, rumbling on about this and that and the IIHF and how if they were running things it would be so much better.

Go to eight teams. Go to six teams. Go to two teams. Have a fifty-fifty draw. Go the Playstation 3 route. Armwrestle for it. Find a new tiebreak system. Summon a tarot card reader. Call on the ghost of McKenzie King.

They said this many, many, many ... well you get the idea. But they didn't offer a solution.

I have one. Draw to the button. Three shooters, three pucks from each team. Start behind the net. Closest puck to center ice wins. The Canadians could hold a spot on the squad for a junior curling phenom from Porcupine Falls, Manitoba. Lovely, problem solved. Now, can we get back to hockey?

Another huge gust heaves rudely past my window. A Hereford cow with a slightly befuddled look on its already moony face is being pushed across the open field outside my house, at times airborne and sliding on those cloven blades over iced tundra at about 35 clicks. It's very impressive, because I didn't know cows could skate, until now. I watch as he disappears over a hillock on his way to Head Lake and beyond. I find myself singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and clicking my heels. Then, I am suddenly aware of another flickering in the room.

Pzzzt! Power out yet again. Just 20 seconds later, the lights are back, and my answering machine is talking to me. "Please reset your phone to the default mode," it says. I have no idea what the default mode is so I ignore the feminine voice. I look around as clocks start blinking 12:00 ... 12:00 ... 12:00 ... well, you get the idea.

Back to the game. Canada has scored again while my satellite was stuttering to recovery mode. It is now 10-0 and the cackling commentators tell us that we are now in double figures.

I'm not Einstein fellas, but I don't need you to tell me that 9 is one digit and 10 is two digits. I find myself wishing that Howie Meeker might suddenly appear. Alas, poor Howie, a hockey commentator from the old school, who could always be relied on for a rousing round of "Golly-Gee's." I loved that man. Where is he anyway. Can a fella' get a Howie in the house? Bob and Pierre, they try, but geeez', they're no Howie Meeker.

I googled Howie and found that he was a Progressive Conservative MP for three years in Waterloo back in 1951 and he did this while also playing hockey for the Leafs. Here's an idea. Let's get Howie back on TSN and while we're at it why don't we run him up the flagpole at the next Conservative leadership convention. Howie Meeker for Prime Minister. Golly Gee, that's a helluva' good idea.

My musings are interrupted by yet another window rattling gust followed by a horrendous snap, crackle, and pop.

A large tree has been pulled up from its roots and is laying across my driveway. Limbs are scattering in the breeze.

At about the same time the power fizzles again. It comes right

back. "Please reset your phone to the default mode," the lady in the phone says. Clocks are blinking and my satellite is telling me that I have to wait while it searches for the satellite. Could the wind have blown my Bell satellite off course? I hope not. I have a game to watch.

The power back, I am told by the twittering TSN magpie that the score is now 12-0.

A TSN fact checker is perched over a laptop googling "Canada's biggest point spreads." There are two categories here. Biggest shutout wins and biggest overall point spreads.

The numbers come and go.

Outside my window I watch as Minden's Home Hardware sign glides serenely past my front window. It's moving much faster than the Hereford Cow. It's cartwheeling at about 46 kilometers per hour. I do the math. I'm exactly 23 clicks from Minden, so it took this sign exactly 30 minutes to get here. Wheeew. That's some pretty high-speed advertising.

I watch it somersault its way to Head Lake. I pull out a calculator and figure that it should arrive in Bancroft by midnight. I suddenly remember the cow. Should I phone the OPP?

"Hello 911, can I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like to report a flying cow."

"Sir you know there are rules against making crank calls on 911? The penalty is a \$10,000 fine and a year in jail."

"Well, then, Officer. Just calling to wish you all a happy New Year and to say you're doing a great job."

Suddenly I am aware that the hockey game is over. The IIHF mandates that a player of the game award must be handed out to members of both teams.

I have no idea who the Kazakhstan player is, but I can see that he is more than a little sheepish about receiving a trophy shortly after a 15-0 crunch with destiny.

They must also play the Canadian National anthem. It's tradition. I am hoping that there's a 10 second version. But no, on and on it drones. The score is left on the ScotiaBank Place clock for the duration of the anthem.

I suddenly remember that I was tuned in with the idea of following the fortunes of Haliburton native son and cottager Cody Hodgson. I listen to the post game patter and realize that while Hodgson scored two goals and 2 assists in the game, I didn't manage to actually see any of his points.

Between power fizzits, meandering cows, cartwheeling signs, rooftop ratchets and that crazy lady in the phone I have managed to miss all of Cody's points.

So I twittered the game and finally filled in some holes. Hodgson played superbly, matching John Tavares's 2 goal and 2 assists. Jamie Benn was the player of the game on the strength of his hat trick and one assist.

Pat Quinn did his best to enunciate, better than Bob or Pierre, why a team must go out and just keep playing.

"We started to do the nice pretty wheels and turns and drop passes and things when you're playing strong opposition, it can kick you and bite you," Quinn said, in a radio interview. "We all know skill is very important, but when you come up against a team that also has skill, then you'll win the game with what's between your ears and how you discipline yourself."

"When it gets tough, you have to be tough." Howie Meeker couldn't have said it better.

Canada's score against Kazakhstan wasn't the most lopsided in the country's history at the world junior tournament, but it was close. Canada beat Germany 18-2 in 1985, Poland 18-3 the following year and France 15-0 in 2001.

And of course, while John Tavares is getting most of the ink and the requisite praise, the guy currently leading the charge for

Sports cont'd... pg. 13...

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Trails Will Open Once Conditions Improve

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

In Haliburton County there are about 450 km of maintained trails that transform the area into a sledder's paradise.

The organization responsible for grooming these trails is the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA). With winter upon us, many of the scenic trails in the County's rugged countryside will hopefully be opened up soon.

"The Rail Trail, which extends from Haliburton to Kinmount, was the first trail to be opened up in the middle of December," said Andy Chvedukas, President of the HCSA, in a recent phone interview with The Voice.

Two weeks ago, Chvedukas said that volunteers were working on getting the Tops trails ready. These trails stretch through areas such as: Kinmount, Haliburton, Minden, Gelert, Whitney and Eagle Lake.

Due to the lack of frost on the ground and an overabundance

of water on the trails as of late, delays have been created for those attempting to prepare them. Soft ground can cause grooming machines to sink and regular wet snowfalls have left behind many dead, fallen trees.

"Once they started clearing trails they ended up having to go back a week and a half later to clear more trees that fell," said Chvedukas.

In Haliburton County, works crews face several challenges when they must go out to brush, pan and compact the trails.

"The challenges we regularly face are the rough terrain, lots of water and uneven surfaces," said Chvedukas.

As of Saturday, Dec. 27, the HCSA website stated that all of the trails have currently been closed because of the heavy

rainfall that has made

"We are doing the best we can," said Chvedukas, about work crews that consist of HCSA volunteers and some paid workers. "Once the trails get to their proper condition, they will go into open status."

Chvedukas said that emphasis is first placed on the Tops trails before club trails because they are most heavily in use.

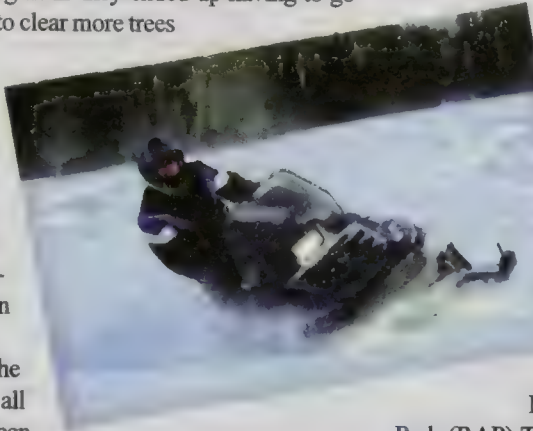
"Those trails are like the 401 highway for snowmobiles," he explained. "If they're open people will be able to access the services and business that they need to get a hold of."

Equipment used to groom the trails includes large tractors and Bombardier 180's, which range in price between \$110,000 and \$200,000 for a new machine.

So just how often are the trails groomed on average?

"The Tops trails are groomed every night over the weekend and at least once more during the week. The club trails are groomed several times each week," said Chvedukas.

This work is typically performed at night because visibility is better for approaching riders who might be on the trails. It's also desirable to get the work done at a time when the least amount of sledders are expected to be out.



Colder Temperatures and Snow Needed for Safe Sledding

Since most trails cross onto private property, cooperation from landowners is greatly appreciated by the HCSA.

"We've dealt with many gracious landowners over the years," said Chvedukas, who added, "We're trying to get more and more concession roads open because it gives us long-term sustainability."

In addition to maintaining the trails, the HCSA is addressing the needs of sledders through various other means.

"For years we've been providing rider education courses for teens between the ages of 12-15. We also recently sought finances from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) to expand and improve the Tops trails in the areas of Ox Narrows, Halls Lake and Carnarvon," explained Chvedukas.

He's also hopeful that the Ride Around Algonquin Park (RAP) Tour (a snowmobile tour encompassing 600 km of Tops trail outside of Algonquin Park) will bring more riders into the County.

"Once we improve the Tops trails around there, riders can better connect to our area through Dorset. That would help out businesses in Dorset and it would also bring people to Haliburton County."

In being involved with the HCSA for a total of 12 years, Chvedukas has seen firsthand how snowmobiling has evolved over that period of time.

"It's becoming more of a family activity," he said. "Also, those who have stopped sledding for a number of years are deciding to get back into it."

To tourists familiar with the area or first-time visitors, Chvedukas says that the Highlands has lots to offer for snowmobile enthusiasts.

"Haliburton County is close to the major GTA area, riders can access our system from borders easily, the County has great accommodations and places to eat at and our trails link up to other club trails."

Maps indicating where all of the trails in the County are can be picked up at locations listed on the HCSA's web site that can be logged on to at www.hcsa.on.ca.

Sports Column Cont'd...

... from pg. 12

Team Canada remains Hodgson. Hodgson is the leading score in the tournament to date with 2 goals and 6 assists in his two games. Tavares and US player Jordan Schroeder both have seven points in their two games.

I will be back watching tonight as Canada plays Germany.

For now, I am heading out to my driveway with a chain saw and a pile of grain. That tree isn't going to move itself and I see that the dear old Hereford has made her way back to my yard, where she is grazing on some recently rescued patch of grass near the foundation and looking sheepishly (cowishly?) roofward lest a piece of plastic capping fall and bonk her on the noggin.

I couldn't find the instruction booklet for my phone. If anyone knows how to reset a Panasonic 1680 series digital phone please get in touch with me pronto at sports@countyvoice.ca.

The lady in the phone is driving me bonkers. And I need to call Howie Meeker.

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Minden River Kings Winning Streak Ends

Kings Drop 7-2 Decision to Oro in Penalty-Filled Contest

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

No one thought that the streak would go on forever.

But as Minden River Kings head coach Brooks Robinson said, another win against Oro Medonte 77s on Saturday December 20th would have made Christmas just a little more special.

As it turns out, the Kings fell 7-2 in a penalty-marred contest, which ended their winning streak at five games.

The Kings defeated Oro 5-4 in overtime on Dec 17 and were riding pretty high on the cusp of their longest winning run in their Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) debut season.

The loss was Robinson's first setback as a head coach since assuming the reins on November 23rd. That's when the Kings winning streak started with a 5-4 win over the league-leading South Muskoka Shield.

Since then Robinson has coaxed the squad to wins over Espanola, Richmond Hill, Nipissing and the 77s.

Robinson said it's been a great run, and added that the loss to Oro should be taken in context.

"We had 78 minutes in penalties and I think Oro had almost identical numbers in penalty minutes," said Robinson.

"The refs called everything in the first period, let some things go in the second and then it just got right out of hand," said Robinson. He added that he wasn't laying blame for the loss directly on the officiating, but added that it certainly contributed to the lopsided score.

"There was no tempo to the game and everything just seemed to get a little out of control in that second period," said Robinson. "And the third period wasn't any better."

The Kings trailed 1-0 after one but the 77s stretched that margin to 5-2 after two.

Robinson said he received a bench warning while the Oro coach was ejected from the game for yapping about the officiating.

"I had big issues about how the game was called, and I just think that it wasn't a great game for the officials," said Robinson. "It was brutal, and the ref just lost all control of it in the second period. We lost our focus and we lost the game."

And now, said Robinson, the Kings are not letting the end of the five-game win streak weigh too heavily on their psyches.

"We're going to reset and start another streak, that's the mindset we're in right now," said Robinson. "Right now we've got to focus on getting back to where we were ... get back to playing as well as we did before the streak ended."

"We have some really talented guys who are beginning to realize that they can play with anyone in this league, and I think we've shown that in the last month."

Robinson added that there are going to be some pretty substantial troop movements upcoming between now and January 10th.

"I can't say too much about it right now, because I'm just hearing about it myself, but we're looking at adding about six new players," said Robinson.

He said that the new players will certainly fill some holes and if everything goes according to plan, the River Kings will be fully manned and roster-ready for the first time this season.

Robinson said that they may even be able to field some bodies

for a taxi squad. He also explained that most of the new players moving into place will be players that can add a physical presence to the club, something that he says has been lacking to date.

"We'll be adding a little muscle to the club and hopefully that will improve the club in a few key areas," said Robinson.

He said that teams have been taking liberties with goalie Andrew Selbie and have also been playing a little fast and loose with the team's prepossessing star, Minnesota Maestro Brett Meyers.

"We need to get some help to our skill players," said Robinson.

He said a recent trade which saw their former captain Toby Kathan go to Oro in a four-for-one swap took a very talented and physically imposing player off of Meyer's line. Of course it also freed Meyers up to wear the captain's C, but Robinson allows that Meyers needs a linemate big enough and rough enough to absorb some of the abuse and possibly step in when opposing players take liberties.

"We'll be trying to add some grit and toughness and those are things that we're going to need heading into the playoffs," said Robinson. "Look this is a pretty rough league and there are a lot of physical guys out there and we've got to do something to try to match up. We can't allow players to run our goaltender and we can't let teams go after Brett, because it would be a shame if we lost him because we're unable to protect him."

Robinson said that with playoffs looming, he's also beginning to settle into the regimen as head coach. He said it's taken a while, but he's finally beginning to manage a lot of the day-to-day things with a sounder base of knowledge.

"I've had time to think about how to approach things and I'm seeing just how much work we'll have to do as we get closer to the playoffs."

Currently the Kings sit in sixth spot with an 11-16-1 record. They have a legitimate shot at moving up past the Brock Bucks (12-17-1) and the 77s (14-8-4) in the standings if the new player acquisitions pan out, but Robinson said that no matter who they face in the playoffs, the first round best-of-five tilts will be challenging, especially considering that the 1-6, 2-5, and 4-3 playoff format will favor the team with the home ice advantage, especially in that short five game series format.

"Look, honestly, a month ago our goal was to get to the first round of the playoffs, but I will tell you right now, that it's all changed," said Robinson. "Our new goal is to get to the final round of the playoffs."

He said that five weeks at the helm has him convinced that these are a special group of guys. He respects each and every one of his players today.

"If I was a little younger," chuckled Robinson, "I'd be proud to lace on some skates and play for this team. I have respect for every single guy on this team."

He added that the winning streak has convinced all of the players that they can compete with any team in the league and he added that they will be building on that psychological momentum as they enter the latter part of the season.

"We've battled with adversity all year long," said Robinson. "I just love these guys and I'm living vicariously through them."

The Kings will travel to Nipissing on Saturday, January 3rd for a game against the third place Alouettes.

Their next home game is slated for the SG Nesbitt Barn on January 11th versus the cellar dwelling Ville Marie Dragons. Game time is 6 pm.■



Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Dec. 30, 1922, in post-revolutionary Russia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is established. Also known as the Soviet Union, it was the first country in the world to be based on Marxist socialism.

On Dec. 31, 1947, America's favorite Western couple gets married. Roy Rogers, star of numerous Westerns and television and radio shows, wed his co-star, Dale Evans. Rogers and Evans had performed together for years, but didn't marry until a year after Rogers' wife passed away.

On Jan. 1, 1962, the Beatles audition for London record company Decca on the same day as Brian Poole and the Tremeloes. Decca signed the Tremeloes, but not the Beatles. The Tremeloes first hit the charts with "Twist and

Shout," later also done by the Beatles. The Tremeloes band is still active today.

On Jan. 2, 1811, Sen. Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts becomes the first senator to be censured by the Senate. Pickering was accused of violating congressional law by publicly revealing secret foreign-policy documents communicated by the president to the Senate.

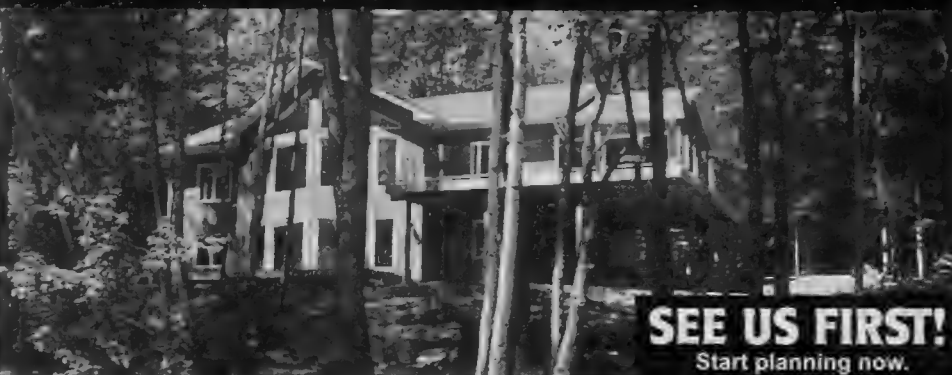
On Jan. 3, 1938, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, an adult victim of polio, founds the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which he later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation. In response to a fundraising appeal, the public flooded the White House with 2,680,000 dimes and thousands of dollars in donations.

On Jan. 4, 1974, President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. Marking the beginning of the end of his presidency, Nixon would resign from office in disgrace eight months later.

On Jan. 5, 1933, construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge, as workers start excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for the structure's huge anchorages. The Golden Gate Bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time.

On Jan. 6, 1925, Finnish long-distance runner Paavo Nurmi appears in the first of his 55 U.S. races. Of these, he lost only his last race, a half-mile sprint. Some newspapers speculated that he had lost only out of politeness to his American hosts.

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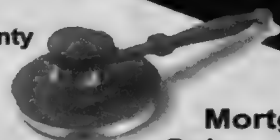
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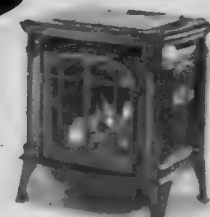
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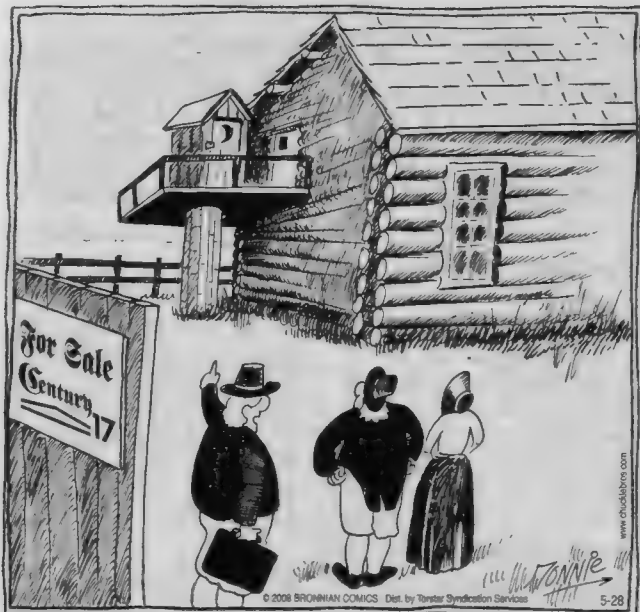
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ACROSS

- 1 Voucher
- 5 Plane place
- 11 Big bargain
- 16 "Major Barbara" monogram
- 19 Clair or Coty
- 20 Swimmer Gertrude
- 21 Garrulous
- 22 School subject
- 23 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 24 Peter O'Toole film
- 27 Medal material
- 29 Pine product
- 30 Incongruous state
- 31 Command to Fido
- 32 Eventually
- 37 Where the buoys are
- 39 Glaze
- 40 Judy Davis film
- 43 Jury member
- 46 Mr. Miyagi's forte
- 47 Emcee's site
- 48 Spigot
- 51 Kindred
- 54 Aussie rockers
- 55 Plant disease

- 56 What a feller needs
- 57 In-your-face item
- 58 Dancer Jose
- 60 Pamphlet
- 63 Floor covering
- 64 Hoarder
- 66 Taxing time?
- 68 "I Love a Parade" composer
- 69 Gregory Peck film
- 74 Jeweler's weight
- 76 Exodus figure
- 77 "Butterfly" ('66 hit)
- 80 Ken of "Hill Street Blues"
- 81 Conductor's concern
- 83 Endangered herbivore
- 85 Solidify
- 86 In error
- 87 Twisted
- 88 Way over yonder
- 90 Little laugh
- 92 Kyser or Starr
- 93 Rushes
- 95 Giza god
- 97 Raison d'
- 98 Bob Hope film

- 102 On — (doing great)
- 104 Down meas.
- 105 Clone
- 106 A Bobbey twin
- 109 Intense
- 110 — Claire, WI
- 112 "Blueberry Hill" singer
- 114 Jane Fonda film
- 122 Leave out
- 123 Fireworks reaction
- 124 Gives the green light
- 125 Pageant props
- 126 Misplace
- 127 Neighbor of Ger.
- 128 Actress Davis
- 129 Least conventional
- 130 — in-the-wool

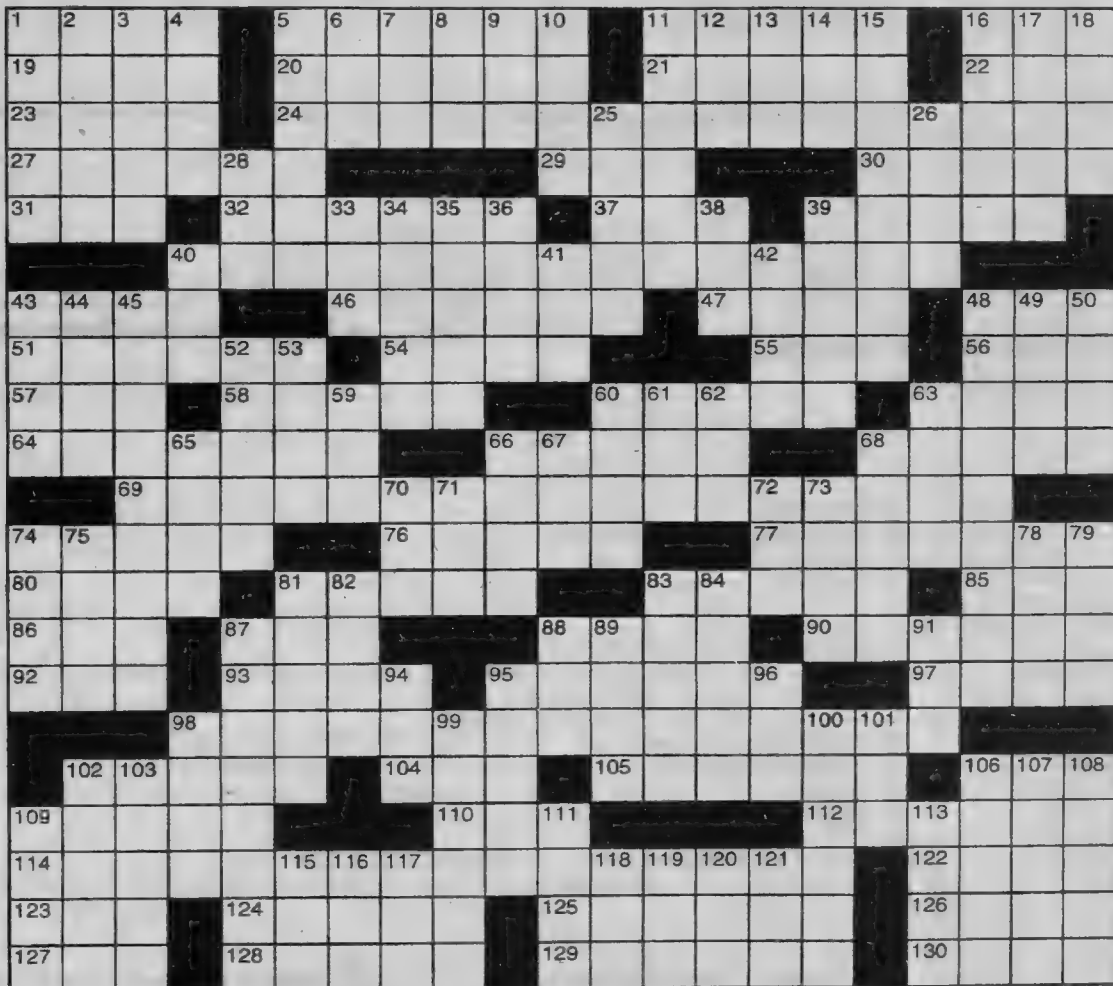
DOWN

- 1 Corn holders
- 2 Matisse or Rousseau
- 3 Gold brick?
- 4 "— Wolf" ('85 film)
- 5 Montana's capital
- 6 Periodontists' org.

- 7 Contempo-
- 8 "Don't touch my bone!"
- 9 Ginger —
- 10 Dollars for quarters
- 11 Audiophile's equipment
- 12 Eastern "Way"
- 13 Wee one
- 14 "America's Most Wanted" abbr.
- 15 Ira Gershwin, for one
- 16 Libreville's land
- 17 Escort
- 18 Command to Fido
- 25 Immobile class
- 26 "La Rondine" rendition
- 28 Energy
- 33 "For shame!"
- 34 Albeniz or Asimov
- 35 Peripatetic Polo
- 36 "Gracious me!"
- 38 Pitch in
- 39 Numskull
- 40 Onassis' nickname
- 41 Catchall abbr.

- 42 DEA officer
- 43 Theatrical Joseph
- 44 Literary pseudonym
- 45 Thrill
- 48 Motorcycle feature
- 49 Wagon part
- 50 Hammer head
- 52 Marsh sight
- 53 Olive —
- 59 Monty's milieu
- 60 '82 Jeff Bridges film
- 61 Volcano part
- 62 Clerical garb
- 63 Baseball's Speaker
- 65 Genghis —
- 66 Curly coif
- 67 Supportive of
- 68 Blue hue
- 70 Tasty tuber
- 71 Weaken
- 72 Agt.
- 73 Got off
- 74 Quiche creator
- 75 — Romeo
- 78 Swerve
- 79 Gen. Robt.
- 81 Experiment
- 82 Checked out
- 83 "Scent of a Woman" dance

- 84 Chilean pianist
- 87 Without reservation
- 88 Bonaparte's buddy
- 89 Ward (off)
- 91 Shoe width
- 94 Farm feature
- 95 Examine
- 96 PD alert
- 98 Coll. brass
- 99 Forsyth's "The — File"
- 100 Firstborn
- 101 Rock's — Speedwagon
- 102 Blessed sound?
- 103 Mercedes of "The Fisher King"
- 106 Shatner co-star
- 107 Absinthe ingredient
- 108 Famous
- 109 Perched on
- 111 Proverb preposition
- 113 Shape
- 115 Turner or Pappas
- 116 Rob Roy's refusal
- 117 Writer Rand
- 118 "— not!"
- 119 Math abbr.
- 120 Vein contents
- 121 Bell and Barker



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FOR WEEK OF JAN. 5, 2009

Highland Storm Pee wee A Tops its Division

By Wendy Sisson

At the Christmas break, the Highland Storm's Pee Wee A team has had some success. After finishing as tournament finalists in their home tournament as well as Huntsville tourney, they were able to win a championship in the Campbellford tournament in early December. This team has had to play through some adversity with a couple of head injuries and a knee injury, and of course at this level you will get the odd suspension. But as the true team that they are, the remaining players were able to rise to the occasion and still post wins for this regular season.

With their record at the break being 13-0-1, this group of seasoned second year players as well as five select first year entries can boast that every player has contributed to the 108 total goals scored, while the two outstanding goalies have combined for the lowest league goals against with only 29. At this point this team is standing in first place in their six team group.

Although it is always fun when you are winning, this group is taking their success very seriously. With a 'no nonsense' type of approach both for games and practices, much of this team's success can be directly attributed to the coaching staff. They are getting these kids ready for the play-offs with a lot of work and still the kids say how much fun they are having... and isn't that what it is all about?

The final home game for the regular season will be in Minden on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 3:30 vs Huntsville. From all the players and families of the Highland Storm's Pee Wee A team, Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! ■

NOTICES

In Memory

In loving memory of Vicky Ann Swinson
Died Jan 3, 2008

If I could have a life time wish,
A dream that would come true,
I'd pray to God with all my heart,
For yesterday with you.
A thousand words can't bring you back,
I know because I've tried
And neither a million tears,
Because I've cried and cried.
You left behind our broken hearts,
And happy memories too,
But it's not the memories that we want,
It was just simply you.

We miss you daily, your forever in our thoughts.

Loving you Always:

Mom, Dad, Diane, Victor and all the family and friends.
Time will never change the love we feel for you.

Horoscopes

It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You love to search for knowledge and share it with others. You would make an especially fine teacher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a good time to take a much-needed break from your recent hectic schedule and spend some time in quieter surroundings. Important news could arrive early next week.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Taurean traits of reliability and thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A sudden attack of boredom leaves you with some tasks undone. It's OK to take a short respite. But get back to work by week's end so that you have time for other projects.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that would make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. A relative has interesting news to share with you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to begin reassessing some of your recent decisions about your long-range goals to see if they still have merit. Spend more time with loved ones this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, making it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by midweek.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A temporary setback could give you time to go over your plans to find weaknesses you might have overlooked before. A romantic getaway with that special person is favored this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Professional and personal situations benefit once you set a positive tone in getting things off to a good start. Honest dialogue smoothes over any occasional display of balkiness.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A problem with workplace colleagues or family members seems to defy even your sage counsel. But be patient. Your words will eventually lead to a resolution.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't just wait out that unexpected and unexplained delay in your career move. You could gain added respect if you ask why it happened and what you can do to move things along.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Although your workplace strategies usually are accepted, you could be challenged by someone who isn't so favorably impressed. Be prepared to defend your positions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your friendship circle expands, with new people coming into your life at this time. Welcome them warmly. But don't neglect those cherished longtime personal relationships.

DEATH NOTICES



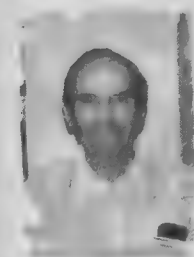
Helen Isabella Smith (Formerly of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully on Friday morning, December 26, 2008 at the Quinte Health Care, Belleville in her 87th year. Beloved wife of the late Howard Edward Smith. Loving mother of Robert Smith & Skye Ireland. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Angie, Christopher, Hawley, Natalie and Maygan. Dear sister of Jean Frazer and Earnie. Predeceased by her parents Clarence and Allie Miller, and her sister Dorothy. Also lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews and their families. Helen was born on September 7, 1922, in New Toronto, Ontario. Howard & Helen were married on May 23, 1953 and resided in New Toronto for many years before moving to the Haliburton area where they lived for over 20 years. Helen worked for Bell Canada, York/Finch Hospital and Weall & Cullen Nurseries. Helen was a member of the Haliburton Curling Club and enjoyed her gardening.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends may visit with the family at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, January 3, 2009 from 1 o'clock until time of Memorial Service in the Chapel at 2 o'clock. Rev. Faun Harriman officiating. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Alzheimer's Society or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Michael J. Biagi Sr. (Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Extendicare - Haliburton on Tuesday evening, December 23, 2008 in his 89th year. Beloved husband of the late Carmela "Connie" Biagi (nee Boccabella). Loving father of Richard Biagi (Sally) of Toronto, Michael of Haliburton, Larry Worden of Toronto, and David Mooney (Carol) of Lindsay. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Michael, Jennifer, Carla, Gregory, Cathy, Mark, Jason, Jesse, Anthony, Jason and his great grandchildren Michael, Ryan, Aidan, Heather, Jenna, Jordan, Benjamin, Julian, Adrian, Tommy, Isabella, Matthew, Lindsay and Caroline. Predeceased by his brother Ralph and his sister Vittoria Formica and by his son Tom. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to visit with the family at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Wednesday afternoon, December 31, 2008 from 1 o'clock until time of Memorial Service in the Chapel at 2 o'clock. Interment later St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, Haliburton. As expressions of sympathy donations to St. Anthony's Future's Fund would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Death Notice

Thomas: Margaret Isabella (nee MacKellar) May 24, 1918 to December 20, 2008. Isabel was a long-time resident of Haliburton and later of Oshawa. Wife (Walter, deceased), mother, mother in law, grandmother, great-grandmother, loving mentor, confidant and best friend. She was a fabulous example of honesty, determination, resiliency, and so very brave. She leaves wonderful memories and a legacy of love for her daughters Carol Dewey (Bill), Karen Floyd (Peter) and Bev Hunnisett (Lawrence). Very sadly predeceased by daughter Lois. She has left a rich heritage of loyalty and love for her many grandchildren and great grandchildren, and also to those who were privileged to meet and know her. A family service will be held at a later date. If desired, donations in lieu of flowers to the Salvation Army (a charity she supported for many years) or the Children's Wish foundation.

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Haliburton Youth Reach Out to the World

Nicole and Monique St. Pierre Explore Cultures and Lifestyles Outside of Canada

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Their travels have taken them to parts of the world far different from Canada. At a young age they've seen and experienced things that many never get to in a lifetime.

Nicole St. Pierre (22) and her sister Monique (19) are now both quite a distance away from where they were raised in Haliburton County. Two of the big reasons they've been able to visit faraway places is because of their post secondary studies and their own desire to explore the world around them.

Nicole is currently in her third year at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia where she is studying International Relations and Economic development. Her younger sister Monique is in her second year at the University of Ottawa and is studying International Development and Globalization.

Both sisters recently sat down with The Voice while they were spending time with their family during the Christmas holiday to talk about their most recent journeys and their studies.

Prior to heading off to pursue her post secondary studies, Nicole took two years after graduating from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) in 2004 to explore her options.

"I went and worked as a server in Ireland and Portugal because I was unsure of what I wanted to do," she explained. "After that I went and worked as a server in Banff went out to Vancouver for a summer and then I applied to university."

Monique started her first year in university right after graduating from HHSS in 2007. At the time, she says that architecture was another study she had in mind.

"I ended up going with International Development to see if I liked it," she said. "So far, so good."

This past summer, Nicole applied to go on a field school trip in her program to another country.

"A few students go with a professor and you study actively. The programs that we studied were culture and ethnicity and minority groups in Southeast Asia," said Nicole.

The two-and-a-half month, eye-opening excursion gave her the chance to meet Burmese refugees in Thailand, indigenous Vietnamese groups and people from China who migrated to the Southeast Asia region.

"It was incredibly exciting," she admits. "It was interesting to look at each ethnic group within each dominant culture, because the way that the nations in Southeast Asia deal with their ethnic minority groups is very different."

She also took six weeks to do some sightseeing in places like Cambodia and Indonesia.

Monique also spent some of her summer volunteering her services in another country.

"I spent two months in Nepal and volunteered through an organization called Volunteer Abroad," she said.



Monique and Nicole St. Pierre



Volunteer

Abroad is a group that connects motivated people with non-for-profit organizations, communities and government agencies in need of assistance around the world. The Canadian Federation of Students (a no-for-profit student organization) owns and operates Volunteer Abroad.

"I first looked into it because they had one affiliated with the school where you could go for a month," explained Monique. "I found that it wasn't program specific enough so I did more research and found Volunteer Abroad."

While in Nepal, Monique was placed with a non-government organization called Prisoners Assistance Nepal. Indira Rana Magar, a well-known advocate in Nepal for vulnerable people in the society, formed the charity in 2000.

"In Nepal, people who go to jail often take their children with them because they don't have any other place to go. Indira set up this program to provide the children with a home and access to schooling. She also has a program where teaches reading and writing skills to women in jail," said Monique.

While there she provided hands-on help to children ages 3-10 through various activities. She also helped teach in classrooms and took on some of the administrative duties as well.

Nicole and Monique's parents Robert and Cindee are extremely proud of their daughters and they feel that people in the local community should be made aware of how youth from the community are making a difference.

"I think more people in the County need to hear about what kids from here are actually doing with their lives," said Cindee in an email to The Voice.

So what are the St. Pierre sisters hoping to accomplish in the future after completing their studies?

"There are a lot of different things that I could or want to do," said Nicole. "I'm really interested, in particular, in microfinance and ethnic minorities in developing nations."

At the moment, Monique is unsure of exactly what it is she'll head into after graduation. For now, she's keeping her options open.

"I'm about to head into a co-op so hopefully I'll get more of an idea of what it is that I want to do," she said.

So do the sisters sometimes miss being in the picturesque Village of Haliburton?

"Being around so many people all of the time in Vancouver and in Asia can suck," said Nicole.

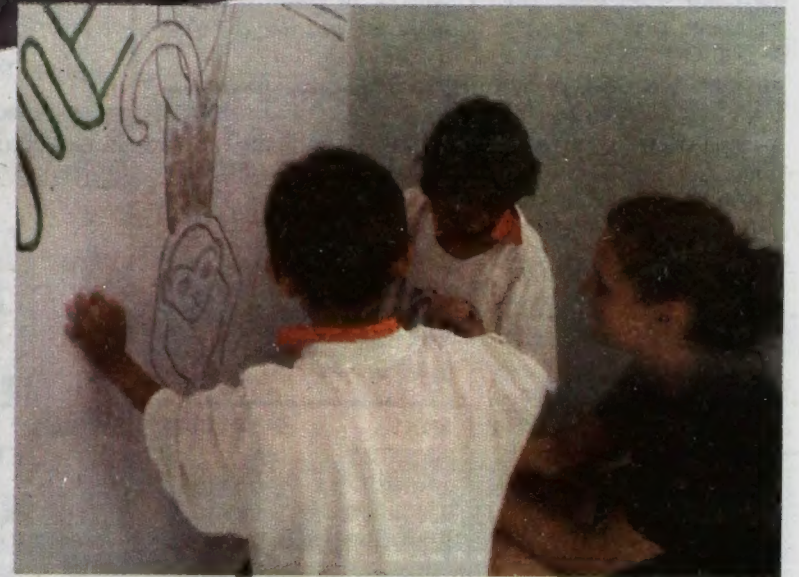
"That's why it's nice to come hear, the silence is quite nice."

Monique shares the same opinion as her sister on life in a busy centre.

"You see people and cars all the time and you hear all the sounds like cars, horns, and dogs."

For students in high school who are thinking about enrolling in international studies, Nicole has some words of advice.

"If they're thinking about going to university, international study programs are good because they are interdisciplinary. You don't just have to focus on one thing; you get a little bit of everything. You get a pretty good world-view."



Monique St. Pierre in Nepal



NOTICE

January 2009 Council Meetings

The 1st Council meeting for the month of January 2009 will be held as follows:

Date: Monday, January 12, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Wilberforce

The 2nd Council meeting for the month of January 2009 will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Wilberforce

Irene S. Cook, CMO

Clerk/CEMC

Box 295, Wilberforce, Ontario K0L 3C0

Phone: 1-705-448-2981

Fax: 1-705-448-3211

Procedural By-law #2008-11 sec. 7.1 provides that "...prior notification of forty-eight (48) hours to all members and the media". This notice was posted in the Municipal office, municipal web-site and distributed to interested parties on December 2, 2008.

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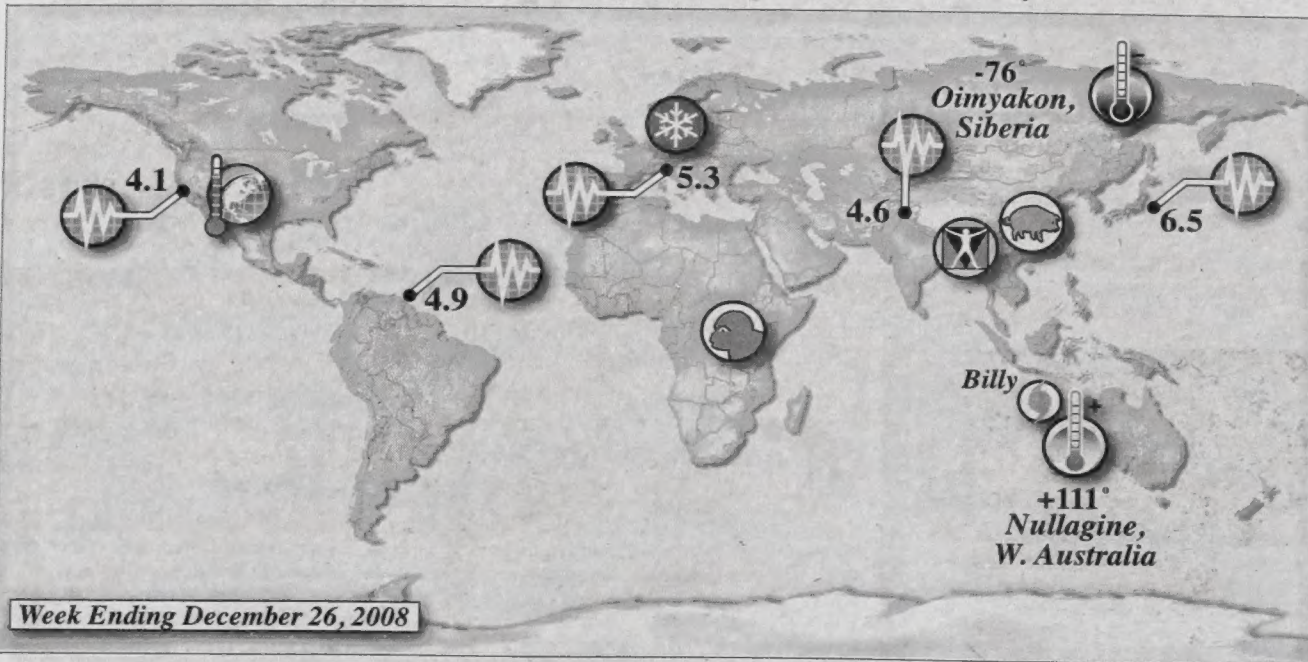
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Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



No White Christmas

The odds of a white Christmas in countries that celebrate the Christian holiday in the Northern Hemisphere have begun to diminish within the last century due to global warming, climate experts said. Despite heavy snow across North America and parts of Europe this month, having a winter wonderland during late December in London and Paris could be only a freak occurrence by 2100, according to Friedrich-Wilhelm Gerstengarber, climate researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. "The conditions for cross-country skiing are also deteriorating," said Paal Prestrud, director of the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo. "There is now an average of 100 days (a year) with at least 10 inches snow (in Oslo). In 1900 that was 150." Oslo's streets were free of snow on Christmas Eve.

Climate Change Now

Scientists gathering in San Francisco were told that the United States could suffer the effects of abrupt climate change within decades — far sooner than warnings issued just a year ago. Using data not available to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia University and other institutions factored in faster-than-expected loss of sea ice, rising sea levels and a near-permanent drought developing in the American Southwest. "It appears this has already begun," the researchers told the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union. They pointed out that some projections of the impact of climate change issued by the IPCC in November 2007 have proven to be too conservative.

Bird Flu Returns

The re-emergence of a lethal strain of avian influenza in Hong Kong, Cambodia, Taiwan, Bangladesh, India and Egypt this month highlights the potential threat the virus poses to humans as the traditional winter flu season gets under way in the Northern Hemisphere, health experts said. One man in Cambodia reportedly became ill after handling a dead chicken in an area where the H5N1 strain of the virus had been detected. The World Health Organization confirmed that a 16-year-old girl in Egypt died on Dec. 16 from exposure to the H5N1 strain in a country where the virus is now endemic. Hong Kong announced the first appearance of H5N1 in poultry for more than five years. Indonesia's agriculture ministry says it hopes to eradicate the virus in that country by 2014. A 2-year-old girl who died from exposure to the strain in late November became that country's 113th fatality from the disease.

Holiday Cyclone

Parts of the Western Australia coast were under a cyclone warning as Christmas approached due to heavy rains and storm-force winds produced by Cyclone Billy. The storm was skirting the coast from just southwest of Darwin to the Kimberly Coast for the second week, and was expected to intensify to hurricane force as it moved into the open waters of the eastern Indian Ocean.

Earthquakes

A strong tremor centered in northern Italy damaged buildings around Parma. • Earth movements were also felt in Kashmir, northeastern Japan, Trinidad and far southern parts of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Congo Gorilla Update

The director of the Virunga National Park in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo says the park's endangered mountain gorilla population appears to be unscathed despite the current conflict between rebel fighters and the government. "We are happy to report that most of them seem to be doing well," park director Emmanuel de Merode said in a statement. Rangers were recently allowed access to the primates for the first time since rebel Tutsi general Laurent Nkunda's men forced them out 15 months ago.

Pig of the Year

A pig that survived China's catastrophic Sichuan earthquake on May 12 by eating charcoal and drinking rainwater while trapped under debris for 36 days has been voted the country's most inspiring animal, according to state media. The swine, known as Zhu Jianqiang, which means Strong Pig, was sold after the quake to the Jianchuan Museum, which agreed to keep him away from the butcher as a reminder of the nation's resolve to cope with the disaster. The online forum Red Net said the 2-year-old pig "vividly illustrates the spirit of never giving up, and has become a model for Chinese entrepreneurs" amid the current economic downturn. But the animal apparently hasn't tightened its belt due to the tough times. "It's gotten fatter and lazier by the day," the *China Daily* quoted a museum staff member as saying. And the pig's keepers say it "has developed a temper that many of its fans may not want to see."

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
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DEAR READERS: Rise and shine, everyone! Welcome to a brand-new year. Today is our chance for a new beginning, the day we discard destructive habits for healthy new ones. With that in mind, I'm printing Dear Abby's oft-requested list of New Year's resolutions -- adapted by my mother from the original credo of Al-Anon.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily -- if only just for today. And not only that, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item that was sent in by I.J. Bhatia, who lives in New Delhi, India:



Inexplicably, the closet door swung open, revealing Vincent's checkered past.

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21 Acres \$249,900



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Anne Moulton 286-2138

Great rental potential! \$73,900



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2 BR with large 760 ft shop/studio. Close to public access to Hall Lake. New furnace, roof & comes with all appliances! Open to all offers!

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138

Drag Lake \$1,390,000



New Listing

One of a kind waterfront acreage! Over 2400 feet of sand and rock shoreline on an exceptional 48 acre parcel - the opportunities are endless!

Drew Bishop - 457-2128

One of A Kind! \$699,000



5 BR, 5 bath 4000 sq. ft. cedar home. Former B&B, Triple garage. Studio & wkshp. Close to schools. Docking on Kashag. chain. Open concept, hardwood flrs. Impressive kitchen.

John Hincks 286-2138

Cod Love It! \$55,000



Busy Highland Street location in Haliburton Village. Licensed for 55. Includes all equipment and chattels. Turn Key and open for business!

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

Kashagawigamog \$550,000



Resort or Family Compound located on Haliburton's most popular 5 lake chain. Sunset views, 5 cabins plus residence, level lot, easy year round access.

Anne Moulton 286-2138

Ski Chalet \$449,000



Stunning new 3 BR, 3 Bath chalet at Sir Sam's Ski Hill. Full finished bsmt & w/o. Top end finishings. Lge wrap around decks on 2 levels. Spectacular view of Eagle Lake.

Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

Beech River \$359,000



3 BR Waterfront home, private setting with that "cottage" feel. Sandy shoreline, deep water off dock with excellent access to Beech & Boshkung Lakes.

Tom Ecclestone 286-2128

Private Eagle Lk Lot \$134,500



More than 3.5 acres, 414 ft of road frontage, over 200 ft of great clean shoreline. Boat on the 2 lake chain. Enjoy Sir Sam's in the winter!

Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

Charming 3 Bedroom \$139,000



Cozy home with 1 1/2 bath is set on a very private 9.81 acre lot, a portion is fenced to house animals, 30x30 insulated, heated shop is drywalled, also features a bunkie.

Greg Stamp 457-2128

Laugh At Winter! \$529,000



This Winterized ski chalet has 3 bedrooms, a fireplace, sunroom, and gorgeous master bedroom with ensuite. Lakefront location!

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Bungalow \$184,900



3 BR bungalow with 8 x 16 bunkie, overlooking 15 acre pond very private 2.5 acre lot just min to Haliburton Village.

Paul Szpik - 457-2128

5 Lake Chain \$399,000



3 BR cottage on Kashagawigamog. Sand & rock shoreline, SW exp. Open concept, stone FP, new kitchen, winterized & accessible by yr. rd. rd.

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

Wonderful Privacy \$299,900



Great 3 BR cottage with pine floors throughout, cathedral ceiling, woodstove on a beautiful well treed private property. West exp. on a quiet no motor lake.

Mark Dennys 457-2128

Country Privacy - In Town \$549,000



Energy efficient home features; open concept, stone FP, beautiful landscaping, massive covered wrap-around deck, & 3300+ sq ft of living elegance.

Drew Bishop - 457-2128

Chalet +5 Acres \$239,000



Privacy plus 3 bedrooms with separate living quarters. Enjoy the hot tub and pool. Clear lake and the town of Minden are close by.

Janice Brookes 457-2128

Family Starter Cottage \$259,000



4 bdrm cottage on flat lot offers sandy beach at front deck. Nicely treed lot, clean, quiet smaller lake. Year round road allows for skiing & snowmobiling possibilities.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Lochlun Area Home \$250,000



Air conditioned 3 BR with main floor master, 2 baths, rec room on 3+ acre lot. Flat lot, beautifully treed, attached garage, small pond. 10 min to town.

Dagmar Boettcher- 286-2138

Blairhampton 25,900



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Kristin Withey 286-2138

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